



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 1269.0 - Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011

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## Summary

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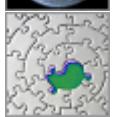
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## About the classification

This document was added or updated on 05/08/2015.



### ABOUT THE CLASSIFICATION

#### OVERVIEW

The current version of the classification is based upon the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries, Second Edition, Revision 1, 2011*. The History of changes page details the changes that have been made since the release of the Second Edition, Revision 1, in August 2011.

The current version of the classification (along with its indexes and correspondences) is available in the data cube from the 'Downloads tab'.

The first edition of the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) was developed through extensive research and was published in 1998. The first edition had a number of revisions, with the final revision (R2.03) in 2007. The Second Edition of SACC was first published in 2008.

The SACC is the Australian statistical standard for social statistics classified by country and is intended for use in the collection, storage and dissemination of all Australian social statistical data classified by country.

The identification of country units in the classification, and the way in which they are grouped, does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the ABS concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The ABS uses the SACC and promotes its use by other government agencies, private organisations, community groups, and individuals, where appropriate.

## **Geographic proximity**

The classification is based on the concept of geographic proximity. In its structure, it groups neighbouring countries into progressively broader geographic areas on the basis of their similarities in social, cultural, economic and political characteristics.

## **Updating the classification**

Periodically, world political change will result in a need to make amendments to this classification. The ABS will monitor the need for change and issue revisions to the SACC on a timely basis. Users are urged to implement changes to their systems only when the ABS issues the revisions.

## **Using the classification for population statistics**

The classification is intended for use whenever demographic, labour and social statistics are classified by country. For example, the classification should be used when collecting, aggregating and disseminating data relating to characteristics such as birthplace, country of residence, country of origin, etc.

## **DEFINITION OF 'COUNTRY'**

The term 'country' is used in the classification to describe the base-level units, even though not all of the units classified are fully independent countries.

The base-level units of the classification include:

- Fully independent countries (sovereign nation states).

- Administrative subdivisions of the United Kingdom: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- External territories and dependencies of independent countries.

These units are discrete geographic areas with varying degrees of political and economic autonomy. In general, they are physically isolated from the country to which they are dependent.

For example, Falkland Islands and Martinique.

- Units which are recognised geographic areas, the ownership or control of which is in dispute.

For example, Gaza Strip and West Bank.

- Residual categories ('not elsewhere classified' categories) comprising geographic areas which are not separately identified in the classification and which are not part of one of the separately identified base-level units.

For example, 'Polynesia (excludes Hawaii), nec', which contains a number of minor islands which are not part of any of the separately identified countries of the minor group 'Polynesia (excludes Hawaii)'.

## SCOPE OF THE CLASSIFICATION

The scope of the SACC is all countries, as defined above, currently existing in the world.

Most countries are separately identified in the classification, even though many of them are statistically insignificant in the Australian context.

A small number of geographic areas have not been separately identified but have been included in residual (not elsewhere classified) categories. Most of these entities have no permanent civilian population and are not significant in terms of social or economic statistics.

This comprehensive coverage makes the classification useful for a range of applications and increases its longevity.

## CONSULTATION WITH STATISTICS NEW ZEALAND

It is the policy of the ABS and Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) to harmonise, where possible, our approaches to collecting statistics. During the development of the SACC, the ABS and SNZ were in close consultation. Although there are differences in the ethnic make-up and statistical requirements in the two countries, it was agreed that the SACC and the NZSCC should be as close to each other as is practical.

The two classifications have the following differences in country names:

New Zealand Standard Classification of Countries	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
New Zealand (includes Ross Dependency)	New Zealand

Antarctica	(Antarctica broken down into 7 areas)
Faeroe Islands	Faroe Islands
Vatican City State	Holy See
Russia	Russian Federation
Gaza Strip/Palestine/West Bank	Gaza Strip and West Bank
Myanmar	Myanmar, The Republic of the Union of
Viet Nam	Vietnam
China, People's Republic of	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)
Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	Hong Kong (SAR of China)
Macau (Special Administrative Region)	Macau (SAR of China)
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of (North)
Korea, Republic	Korea, Republic (South)
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the	Congo, Democratic Republic of

## Building the classification



### BUILDING THE CLASSIFICATION

#### DESIGN CONSTRAINTS

The theoretical and conceptual considerations for developing the structure of the classification were applied in conjunction with other considerations including:

- the feasibility of the classification for collecting data from both statistical and administrative collections,
- the ease of implementing the classification in statistical and administrative systems,
- the analytical usefulness of data collected within the framework of the classification, and
- the structural and statistical balance of the classification.

#### Physical and statistical balance

The classification was developed to achieve a structure that is physically and statistically balanced. This is necessary to allow the classification to fulfil its functions in a way that is useful and practical for presenting and analysing statistical data, especially from sample surveys.

Physical balance was achieved by developing a classification that at a particular level within each category has:

- manageable numbers of sub-categories, and
- similar numbers of sub-categories.

Statistical balance means that each major and minor group should represent a significant number of observations. But no major or minor group should represent an excessive number of observations (say, Country of Birth responses). Consequently, a classification

used for the dissemination of statistics should not have categories at the same level in its hierarchy which are too different in their population size. This allows the classification to be used effectively for the cross-tabulation of aggregate data and the dissemination of data from sample surveys.

Application of the classification criteria, generally led to a balanced classification structure. However, considerations of practicality, usefulness and statistical balance were also used in developing the structure including:

- splitting Europe into two major groups, and
- combining the two American continents to form one major group.

## **CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA AND THEIR APPLICATION**

Classification criteria are the principles by which categories are aggregated to form broader categories in a classification structure.

The criteria used for the SACC are:

- the geographic proximity of countries;
- the similarity of countries in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics;
- the desirability that groups of countries lie within a single geographic continent.

### **Geographic proximity**

Geographic proximity is the basic criterion used to group countries in the SACC. The principle allows for the grouping of countries which may be separated by bodies of water.

### **Similar characteristics**

Similarity in terms of social and cultural characteristics is based primarily on language spoken in a group of countries. However, other factors such as religion practised, historical links, similarity of national aspirations, and even factors such as type of food, or similarity of art, serve as indicators of cultural and social similarity.

### **Grouping countries to form minor groups**

The lowest level of the classification consists of separately identified countries.

Neighbouring countries are combined to form the minor groups of the classification structure on the basis of similar social, cultural, economic and political characteristics.

In some cases countries which do not have neighbouring borders are grouped together because of similar characteristics.

For example:

- Spain and Portugal are included in a group with other similar southern European countries (e.g. Italy) even though the southern part of France lies between Spain and Italy.

As well as being geographically proximate, the countries of minor groups must all lie within a single geographic continent. Although the countries in a minor group are not necessarily identical in respect of any particular characteristic, the groups formed are relatively homogeneous in terms of the set of classification criteria.

While geographic proximity is the principal criterion used in grouping countries, in instances where a country could fit into more than one minor group on the basis of its location, its placement in the classification is made primarily on the basis of its characteristics and those of its neighbours.

For example:

- Mexico, based on its location, could be included in either the group of countries comprising Northern America or the group of countries comprising Central America. It is included in Central America because of its similar social, cultural, economic and political characteristics with countries such as Honduras and Guatemala.

Where a country could fit equally into more than one minor group based on all the classification criteria, it is classified on factors such as practicality, usefulness, and statistical balance between groups.

For example:

- Italy, based on the classification criteria, would fit comfortably in either Western Europe or Southern Europe. It is included in Southern Europe on the basis of practicality, usefulness, and statistical balance between groups.

### **Grouping minor groups to form major groups**

Major groups were formed by aggregating minor groups. Minor groups were selected to comprise a Major group based on their geographic proximity and their similarities in social, cultural, economic and political characteristics.

In principle, major groups are formed so that they lie entirely within a single geographic continent.

This is not the case for two major groups:

- 'North Africa and the Middle East'.  
(It lies across the boundary separating the continents of Africa and Asia.)
- 'Americas'.  
(It includes the continents of North and South America.)

The countries of North Africa are included in a major group with the Middle East because of their social and cultural similarities. To include them in a group with Sub-Saharan countries from which they are geographically, environmentally and culturally removed would not be in harmony with the principles of the classification or useful for social and population statistics. In many economic statistics, however, the continental classification of Africa and Asia is appropriate and is adopted as an output view of the data.

### **In summary**

The classification criteria and the way they have been applied has produced a classification structure that consists of:

- countries grouped to form minor groups on the basis of geographic proximity and similarity in terms of cultural, social, economic and political characteristics; and
- minor groups aggregated to form major groups on the basis of geographic proximity and a degree of similarity in their characteristics.

## **ABOUT THE CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE**

The classification is a hierarchy with three levels.

### **Countries**

The third level of the classification structure consists of 255 countries including four residual ('not elsewhere classified') categories. Residual codes are explained in 'About codes'.

### **Minor groups**

The second level of the classification structure comprises 27 minor groups. Each minor group lies wholly within the boundaries of a geographic continent.

### **Major groups**

The first level of the classification structure comprises nine major groups, formed by aggregating geographically proximate minor groups. Major groups comprise countries which have broadly similar social, cultural, economic and political characteristics.

Most major groups lie wholly within the bounds of a single geographic continent. There are two exceptions: 'North Africa and the Middle East', and 'Americas'.

## **About codes**



### **ABOUT CODES**

#### **STANDARD CODE SCHEME**

##### **The codes**

In the classification structure:

- major groups have a one digit code
- minor groups have a two digit code
- countries have a four digit code.

The following example demonstrates the code scheme for the countries comprising the minor group 'Southern Europe'.

'Southern Europe' is one of three minor groups of the major group 'Southern and Eastern Europe'.

### 3 SOUTHERN AND EASTERN EUROPE

#### 31 Southern Europe

- 3101 Andorra
- 3102 Gibraltar
- 3103 Holy See
- 3104 Italy
- 3105 Malta
- 3106 Portugal
- 3107 San Marino
- 3108 Spain

A two digit code represents each minor group. The first digit is the code of the major group in which that minor group is included. Minor groups are numbered sequentially within major groups. For example, the codes of the minor groups included within Southern and Eastern Europe are numbered 31, 32, 33, etc.

A four digit code represents each country. The first two digits are the code of the minor group in which that country is included. Countries are numbered sequentially within minor groups.

Countries are not given codes ending with 'zero' or 'nine'. These are special purpose codes.

- Codes ending in 'zero' are used for supplementary (not further defined, 'nfd') categories; 'nfd' codes do not form part of the classification structure.
- Codes ending in 'nine' are used for residual (not elsewhere classified, 'nec') categories.

Countries were originally listed in alphabetical order within minor groups. This order is disrupted when countries are added to a minor group.

#### **What happens when there are changes**

Because of political change in the world, it is necessary from time to time for the classification to have countries added or deleted. When a country is added to the classification, it is given the next available four digit code of the minor group to which it is being added. The available four digit codes are those ending in the numerals one through to eight (four digit codes ending in zero or nine are reserved as special purpose codes).

If a country ceases to exist as a separate entity it is deleted from the classification. Its code is not re-allocated to another country as this would complicate time series data. If a country is moved from one minor group to another, it will be allocated the next available code of the minor group to which it is moved.

#### **CODES FOR RESIDUAL CATEGORIES**

In each minor group of the structure, a four digit code is reserved as a residual or 'not elsewhere classified' (nec) category. The 'nec' category has a four digit code consisting of the two digits of the minor group followed by the two digits '99'. Any geographic area within a minor group, which is not separately identified in the classification, and not part of one of the

separately identified countries, is included in the 'nec' category.

Because of the comprehensive coverage of the SACC, it has only four residual categories:

- 1199 Australian External Territories, nec
- 1599 Polynesia (excludes Hawaii), nec
- 8299 South America, nec
- 9299 Southern and East Africa, nec

Residual categories are part of the structure of the SACC and should not be used to 'dump' responses containing insufficient data to code to a separately identified category of the classification (see Supplementary Codes).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY CODES**

Supplementary codes are used to:

- process inadequate data in statistical collections
- represent country-like entities and groups of countries which are not part of the SACC structure.

Supplementary codes are not part of the classification structure. They exist for operational reasons only, and no data would be coded to them if sufficiently detailed information were obtained.

The supplementary codes are listed in the data cube from the 'Downloads' tab.

### **'Not further defined' (nfd) codes**

'Not further defined' codes are used to code responses which cannot be coded at country level, but which can be coded to a higher level of the classification structure. This preserves data that would otherwise be lost.

'Not further defined' codes, enable data which can only be coded at the major or minor group levels of the classification to be processed within a collection, coded at the four digit level of the classification.

#### **CODES ENDING IN TWO 'ZEROES'**

Responses relating to geographic areas which cannot be identified as lying within the boundaries of a country, but which lie wholly within the boundaries of a minor group, are coded to that minor group. Such responses are allocated a 'not further defined' code consisting of the two digit code of the minor group followed by '00'.

For example. The response 'Great Britain' does not contain enough information to be coded to a country, but it can be coded to the minor group 21: 'United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man'.

So it is coded to '2100: United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, nfd'.

#### **CODES ENDING IN THREE 'ZEROES'**

Similarly, responses relating to geographic areas which cannot be identified as lying within the boundaries of a country in the classification, or one of the classification's minor groups, but which lie wholly within the boundaries of a major group, are coded to that major group. Such responses are allocated a 'not further defined' code consisting of the one digit code of

the major group followed by '000'.

## Other supplementary codes

There are four other types of supplementary code.

Codes starting with:

- '000', are codes for inadequate data
- '06', are codes for economic and other country groups
- '07', are codes for economic and other entities
- '09', are codes for former countries and other geographic entities.

### CODES STARTING WITH THREE 'ZEROES'

Four digit codes starting with '000' are used to code survey responses and other data, that cannot be allocated a country, minor group or major group code.

For instance, '0000' is used to code inadequately described survey responses, '0003' to code not stated responses, etc.

### CODES STARTING WITH 'ZERO NINE'

Four digit codes starting with '09' are designed to code:

- responses relating to entities which are defunct because of political change, but which are still regarded as useful for statistical purposes, and
- entities which are no longer separately identified in the revised classification structure.

These codes have two purposes:

- to assist precise coding and to consequently preserve data that would be lost or coded to a broader category of the classification; and
- to assist in the reconstruction of entities no longer separately identified in the classification, for time series purposes.

In some instances, the '09' codes are used to code responses that would otherwise be coded to inadequately described. For example, the response 'Europe' is coded to 0911: 'Europe, not further defined' rather than to code 0000: 'Inadequately Described'.

In some instances the '09' codes provide a more precise alternative than the supplementary codes relating to the structure. For example, responses relating to the former Yugoslavia (which cannot be coded to its constituent countries) can be coded to 0913: 'Former Yugoslavia, not further defined' rather than to code 3200: 'South Eastern Europe, not further defined'. (See also Editing specifications).

## Index for coding responses



### INDEX FOR CODING RESPONSES

## WHAT IS IT?

Responses provided in statistical and administrative collections do not always reflect the official names of classification categories in the SACC. A coding index is therefore necessary to act as a link between individual responses and the classification categories (and supplementary codes), enabling data to be coded accurately and quickly to the appropriate category.

The coding index for population statistics should be used when coding responses to questions on 'country of birth', 'country of origin', etc.

The coding index has been revised using data from the 2006 Census. It contains a comprehensive list of the most probable responses to questions relating to country and their correct classification codes.

A coding index designed to assist in the allocation of country codes to economic data is also included in the SACC.

## CODING RULES

Coding rules should be used when coding responses that do not appear in the coding index provided.

The coding rules are:

- Responses which match exactly with an index entry are given the code allocated to that index entry.
- Responses which match a country but which contain extra information to that included in the coding index are given the code of that country. This includes responses giving a full or formal country name (for example, Syrian Arab Republic is coded to Syria).
- Responses which relate directly to a country but which consist of a different spelling are given the code of that country (for example, Tadzhikistan for Tajikistan). This is also the case for:
  - abbreviations (for example, Aust. for Australia),
  - initials (for example, USA for United States of America),
  - foreign language names (for example, Ceska Republika for the Czech Republic), and
  - slang or idiosyncratic responses (for example, Aussie or Oz for Australia).
- For responses which consist of an old country name (for example, Persia for Iran) it is necessary to determine the current country or geographic area to which the response relates and allocate the appropriate code.

Special supplementary codes have been assigned to the defunct political entities of eastern Europe (former USSR, former Czechoslovakia, etc.) and these codes should be used rather than the standard supplementary codes.

In cases where the former entity was larger than any current country's border, but is contained within the region's minor group (such as 0913 Yugoslavia, 0914 Czechoslovakia and 0921 Serbia and Montenegro - within 3200, 3300 and 3200 respectively), the 09.. supplementary code can be utilised as the input code to retain an input count, while an edit can add that count to output at the broader, 3200 or 3300, minor group level, as in the example in Using the classification - Editing specifications.

- Responses which cannot be identified as relating directly to a separately identified country in the classification are assigned a residual category code or a supplementary nfd code.
- Changes in national boundaries create coding difficulties. To maintain consistency of coding in all applications it is preferable that each country response be coded according to national boundaries existing at the time of the data collection. Therefore, all responses relating to a country which currently exists, but which has undergone boundary changes at some time in the past, are coded to the named country.

For example, persons who give their country of birth as 'Germany' are coded to Germany, even though the boundaries of Germany may have changed since they were born. They may have been born in a place that is now in Poland.

Birthplace responses which relate to particular cities or regions which are now in one country, but which were in another country at the time of birth, should be coded to the country the city or region is in at the time of data collection.

For example, the response 'Danzig' should be coded to Poland not to Germany and it is included as such in the coding index.

- Responses relating to countries which have changed name, without changing boundaries, are coded to the latest name in the classification (e.g. 'Upper Volta' is coded to 'Burkina Faso').

## Using the classification



### USING THE CLASSIFICATION

#### EDITING SPECIFICATIONS

The full range of valid codes should be used in all specifications, including in verifying input codes, manipulating data, aggregating data to higher level categories and deriving output items and tables.

For applications using the classification structure, the valid range of codes comprises all the codes:

- in the classification structure, and
- in the list: 'Supplementary Codes for the Classification Structure'.

These supplementary codes are detailed in the data cube from the 'Downloads tab'.

Supplementary codes in the list Supplementary Codes for Former Countries and Other Geographic Entities, do not fall in the valid code range for any of the categories of the standard classification, but can be used to preserve data that would otherwise be lost. When deriving output items for the classification structure, data coded to these supplementary codes are included in the data for, '0000: Inadequately Described'.

## STORAGE AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

Data should be captured and stored at the most detailed level of the classification possible. This allows the greatest flexibility for the output of statistics. It enables more detailed and complex analysis, facilitates comparisons with previous data using different classifications and preserves information so as to provide maximum flexibility for future use of the data.

However, because of collection and confidentiality constraints, it may not always be possible to collect, store or output data at the lower levels of the classification. The use of a standard classification framework will nevertheless enhance data comparability even though it may not always be possible to disseminate data at the most detailed level.

The hierarchical structure of the classification allows users the flexibility to output statistics at the level of the classification which best suits their needs. Data can be presented at major group, minor group or country level. If necessary, significant countries within a minor group can be presented separately while the remaining countries within the minor group are aggregated. The same principle can be used to highlight significant minor groups within a major group.

Countries from different minor groups should not be added together to form an aggregation not included in the classification framework structure as this corrupts the application of the classification criteria and has repercussions for data comparability. Similarly, minor groups from different major groups should not be added together. In instances where some countries within a minor group are presented separately while the remaining countries within the minor group are aggregated, the group of aggregated countries should be labelled 'Other', or 'Other (minor group name)'.

For example using Minor Group 24 Northern Europe:

Denmark  
Norway  
Sweden  
Other Northern Europe

## STANDARD CODING OPTIONS

An exception to the above argument to present data in a standard fashion using the structure or the alternative standard country groupings is made in a number of cases to allow the continuation of time series and to enhance the usefulness of the classification in certain areas.

The following groupings of countries are provided as standard coding options.

### **Europe**

In some circumstances there will be a need to present statistics for Europe as a whole rather than for the individual major groups; North-West Europe, and Southern and Eastern Europe.

### **Europe and the former USSR**

This entity was a major group in the previous country classification and is provided for time series purposes.

### **Former USSR**

This entity was a minor group in the previous country classification and is provided for time

series purposes.

### **East Asia**

The terms 'Asia' or 'Asian' are sometimes used to refer to the countries of North-East Asia and South-East Asia only. This grouping of culturally 'Asian' countries comprising an aggregation of the SACC major groups; 'North-East Asia' and 'South-East Asia' is more appropriately referred to as 'East Asia'.

### **Asia**

Users may wish to disseminate statistics under the broad heading 'Asia', or to refer to 'Asia' or use the adjective 'Asian' in thematic discussion, reports, etc. For general statistical purposes it is inappropriate to aggregate the minor group; '42 Middle East' with the minor groups; '71 Southern Asia' and '72 Central Asia' or with the major groups; '5 South-East Asia' and '6 North-East Asia' (also commonly described as East Asia in combined output), as the countries from these regions are dissimilar in terms of their cultural, social and economic characteristics.

## **SHORT NAMES FOR PUBLICATION**

The country names used in the classification generally correspond to the short form country names used by the United Nations. In a few instances the country name is accompanied by extra information to precisely define the unit it represents, for example, 'China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)'.

Some of the names of the countries and groupings used in the classification are too long for use in all circumstances, for example, in table stubs. In these cases a list of names for countries and the SACC groupings is provided using both 15-character and 30-character labels.

Short country names are detailed in the data cube from the 'Downloads tab'.

## **What's changed**



### **WHAT'S CHANGED**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW**

The ABS conducted the review to:

- ensure the classification was up-to-date
- correct any errors in the classification
- improve the index used to code responses.

This was a minor review.

There was no analysis of the conceptual model underpinning the classification.

There was no evidence to suggest that a more comprehensive review was necessary.

## CHANGES TO THE CLASSIFICATION

The Netherlands Antilles was dissolved in 2010 resulting in the new countries of 'Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba', 'Curacao' and 'Sint Maarten (Dutch part)'.

South Sudan became an independent country in July 2011.

### Countries added to the classification

Code	Name
4111	South Sudan
8433	Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
8434	Curacao
8435	Sint Maarten (Dutch part)

### Countries deleted from the classification

Code	Name
8418	Netherlands Antilles

### Countries with a change of name

Code	Old name	New name
5101	Burma (Myanmar)	Burma (Republic of the Union of Myanmar) (superseded on 13/02/2013. For details, see <a href="#">History of changes</a> )
5206	East Timor	Timor-Leste
8202	Bolivia	Bolivia, Plurinational State of
8216	Venezuela	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
9104	Cape Verde	Cabo Verde (superseded on 18/08/2014. For details, see <a href="#">History of Changes</a> )
9107	Congo	Congo, Republic of

## CHANGES TO THE POPULATION STATISTICS INDEX

### Change in code

Name	Old code	New code
Netherland Antilles	8418	8400
Nederlandse Antillen	8418	8400
Netherlands West Indies	8418	8400
Central Africa	9000	9100

### Additions to the index

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
3206	Republic of Macedonia
3215	Serbia Yugoslavia
4111	South Sudan
4111	Republic of South Sudan
6101	People's Republic of China
7105	Nepal, Federal Democratic Republic of
8202	Bolivia, Plurinational State of
8216	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
8433	Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
8433	Saba
8434	Curacao
8435	Sint Maarten (Dutch part)
9107	Congo Republic of
9222	St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
9223	Seychelles Islands
9225	Republic of South Africa

### **Deletions from the index**

Based on 2006 census data, over 400 entries were deleted from the index.

Mostly, these were entries for which there were no responses in the census.

## **CHANGES TO THE ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY GROUPINGS**

### **Alternative groupings that are no longer included in this publication:**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
0603	European Economic Area (EEA)
0606	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
0607	South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA)
0608	The Commonwealth
0617	Arab League
0618	Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union (EMU)

## **CHANGES TO SUPPLEMENTARY CODES**

### **Supplementary codes for economic and other country groups that are no longer included in this publication:**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
0601	Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC)
0602	Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
0603	European Economic Area (EEA)
0604	European Union (EU)
0605	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
0606	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

0607	South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA)
0608	The Commonwealth
0617	Arab League
0618	Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union (EMU)

**Supplementary codes for economic and other entities that are no longer included in this publication:**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
0731	Other ASEAN
0732	Other Asia, nec (Excludes ASEAN)
0733	Other EU
0734	Other Europe
0735	Other Europe (excludes EU and OECD)
0736	Other OECD
0737	Other OECD in Europe
0748	APEC, nfd
0751	ASEAN, nfd
0752	EEA, nfd
0753	EU, nfd
0754	OECD, nfd
0755	OPEC, nfd
0756	SPARTECA, nfd
0757	The Commonwealth, nfd
0758	Arab League, nfd
0761	EMU, nfd

**Supplementary codes for former countries and other geographic entities**

**Input code      Name**

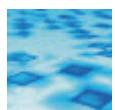
No longer included

0923              United Kingdom, nfd

Included

0924              Netherlands Antilles, nfd

## Comparing classifications



### COMPARING CLASSIFICATIONS

#### CORRESPONDENCES

Correspondences enable users to convert historical data from the First edition of SACC to Second edition SACC 2011.

Correspondences between the structures of the two editions are provided in the Excel workbook on the Downloads tab. Because, in most cases, the base-level units of the classification (countries) are identical, the correspondences are straightforward. The correspondences itemise the code linkages between the countries, detail the links between the major groups and the minor groups, and indicate the movement of particular countries

between groups in the two structures.

## THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) STANDARD COUNTRY OR AREA CODES

The aggregation of countries in the UN classification is done on a strictly continental basis, the groupings do not always meet the requirements of Australian users. The geographically based structure of the SACC has been developed giving emphasis to social, cultural, economic and political criteria and to groupings that are relevant to Australia's multicultural society. The resultant classification is more useful than the UN classification for the collection, dissemination and analysis of country based information in Australia. However, the units and groupings of the two classifications are broadly compatible and it is possible to correspond data based on the SACC to the UN classification for the purposes of international comparison. The correspondence table is provided in the Excel workbook on the Downloads tab.

## Economic statistics and the classification



### ECONOMIC STATISTICS AND THE CLASSIFICATION

#### USING THE CLASSIFICATION FOR ECONOMIC STATISTICS

The title of the SACC (the Standard Australian Classification of Countries) reflects its suitability for use in a wider range of applications than its precursor, the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

The SACC is intended for use in the collection, storage and dissemination of all Australian statistical data classified by country.

In the field of population statistics, the classification is intended for use whenever demographic, labour and social statistics are classified by country.

The structure of the SACC can be directly adopted in some economic statistics, such as international merchandise trade. For other economic statistics the SACC can be supported by alternative country groupings.

In some cases, there is a need in economic statistics to use broader geographic groupings than provided in the SACC, to give a geographic perspective while protecting the confidentiality of reported information. To cater for such cases broader continental classification elements, such as 'Africa, nec', can be used to derive continental aggregates. These are generally in line with international statistical practice and facilitate international comparison.

#### Standard Coding Options

The groupings of countries are provided to allow for the continuation of time series and to

enhance the usefulness of the SACC.

The full range of codes required to derive data for these groupings is listed in the Standard Australian Classification of Countries data cube from the Downloads tab.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY CODES FOR ECONOMIC AND OTHER ENTITIES**

In some cases, the collection and aggregation of data for economic statistics (such as international trade and international investment position statistics) require data to be coded to entities that do not equate directly to a single country, or to countries at all. Such entities have been assigned unique four digit codes beginning with '07'.

For example: 'Belgium and Luxembourg' is allocated code 0704, Reserve Bank Gold is allocated code 0741.

Although these supplementary codes are not part of the classification structure, they should be considered when aggregating and presenting data for both the structure and the alternative groupings.

## **About this Release**

The classification was developed by the ABS for use in the collection, storage and dissemination of all Australian statistical data classified by country.

## **History of Changes**

**This document was added or updated on 09/08/2016.**

**09/08/2016** – The data cube has been updated to remove a sensitive coding index entry. The classification has not been changed.

**05/08/2015** – Reference to the title of the classification has been updated in 'About the Classification'.

**18/08/2014** – The reference to the country previously known as 'Cape Verde' has been updated to 'Cabo Verde' in line with changes in the official recognition of that country by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The title of the classification has been updated from *Standard Australian Classification of Countries, 2011, Version 2.2* to *Standard Australian Classification of Countries, 2011, Version 2.3*, to reflect this change.

**01/10/2013** – A typographic error was corrected in the data cube. In Table 1.1 Major Groups, the title of Major Group 9 was shown as "SUB-SAHARIAN AFRICA". It has been amended to "SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA".

**31/07/2013** – The contents page of the data cube was updated to ensure that the release date and the correspondence tables were labelled appropriately for the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries, 2011, Version 2.2*.

**13/02/2013** – The reference to the country previously known as 'Burma' or 'Myanmar' has been updated to 'The Republic of the Union of Myanmar' in line with changes in the official recognition of that country by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Prior to the implementation of these changes to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) the official title of the classification was *Standard Australian Classification of Countries, Second Edition, Revision 1, 2011*. The current title of the classification is *Standard Australian Classification of Countries, 2011, Version 2.2*.

**11/05/2012** – Index content (within data cube) has been unlocked.

**27/04/2012** – Index content updated.

# Explanatory Notes

## Abbreviations

### ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation
ASCCSS	Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
EEA	European Economic Area
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union
EU	European Union
nec	not elsewhere classified
nfd	not further defined
NZSCC	New Zealand Standard Classification of Countries
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SNZ	Statistics New Zealand
SPARTECA	South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement
UN	United Nations
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

## Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

The data cube has been updated to remove a sensitive coding index entry. The classification has not been changed.

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